ject to the condition that they will disin-vest upto 40% of their foreign equity to local partners within five years and if this is not possible, they will continue their endeavour to promote and encourage participation of local investors. Further, the approval is subject to the condition that the company will take all necessary approvals as required under the existing laws and regulations.

Loss sufffcred on account of low recovery in khandsari factories

2510. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the magnitude of nationl loss suffered on account of low recovery in Khandsari factories and the steps Gov ernment are taking to improve the re covery;

(b) the total number of khandsari factories in the country and their distribution, State-wise and district-wise; and

(c) the number of persons employed in khandsari factories and the ways in which khandsari units are socially more beneficial than the sugar mills?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The recovery percentage in khandsari factories ranges between 6-7 as against about 10% in vacuum pan sugar factories.

The khandsari industry is regulated by the State Governments. The data regarding the number of khandsari factories & the persons employed therein are not being maintained by the Central Government.

Steps to check repression against the Workers in various Industries

2511. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the contribution of his Ministry to stop repression against the workers through retrenchments, lay-offs and lockouts in various industries during the last 5 years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): The provisions relating to lay-off, retrenchment, closure, lockouts etc, are contained in the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Act provides cartain measures of protection to the workers in the event of lay-off, retrenchment and closure. The Act also prohibits lockouts under certain circumstances, keeping in view the interest of workers. According to the available statistics, in general, there is a declining trend in the number of strikes and lockouts, lay-offs, retrenchment and closure during the last five years.

Implementation of "Central Scheme for Liberation of Scavangers"

2512. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a scheme titled "Central scheme for liberation of scavengers";

(b) if so, the details of this scheme;

(c) the number of scavengers in Bihar benefited from this scheme during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the target for 1996-97; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Ministry of Welfare launched "The National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers & their Dependents on 22nd March, 1992 with the objective of elimination of the inhuman practice of manual handling of night soil and filth by the end of VIII Plan Period. The main components of the scheme are:-

1. Rapid survery to identify Scavengers and their dependents and their aptitude for alternative trades.
2. Training of Scavengers and their dependents